

Economic Affairs Interim Committee Meeting  
September 12, 2014

**5:00 p.m. Agenda Item: Possible Committee Bills on:**

- co-committee bill with Children/Families on revising/extending prescription drug registry (or letter indicating support for the bill)

Draft template letter:

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TO: *[To be determined per co-committee bill or letter of support]*

From: Economic Affairs Interim Committee

RE: Support for LC 340, Prescription Drug Registry Fee

During the 2013-2014 interim, the Economic Affairs Interim Committee (Committee) received an overview and status update of the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) program. We are aware that the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee spent significant time discussing the MPDR program and hearing from stakeholders on efforts to improve the program and address funding issues.

The MPDR program is administered and maintained by the Montana Board of Pharmacy within the Department of Labor and Industry and became operational in 2012.

The purpose of the MPDR program is to collect prescription data for controlled substance medications dispensed to patients in Montana, pursuant to 37-7-1502, MCA. The MPDR program serves as a patient safety tool for physicians, other prescribers, and pharmacists to use in providing patient care and can also be used to help identify potential misuse, abuse and/or diversion of controlled substance medications.

Overall, there is widespread support for the MPDR program with the understanding that efforts must continue to make improvements to program functionality, access and utilization. The Committee appreciates the value the MPDR program provides in overall efforts to address prescription drug abuse in Montana – a key focus of Senate Joint Resolution 20.

Recognizing that authority for the MPDR program to collect \$15 fees expires on July 1, 2015, unless the 2015 Montana Legislature takes action, interim discussions focused on the need to secure ongoing fee funding to be used in combination with other authorized funding options. Concerns were raised on the reliance of federal dollars to run the MPDR program. The Board of Pharmacy reported that the annual budget for the MPDR program is \$300,758 for operating expenses and system enhancements, the majority of which has been funded through federal grant support.

Therefore, the Committee supports actions of the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee to move forward a committee sponsored prescription drug registry bill, LC 340, to revise and increase the MPDR fee from \$15 to \$30, to be assessed to certain licensees of health care licensing boards. In addition the bill extends the expiration date from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2017. We agree that such a fee increase and extension will better ensure ongoing funding for maintaining and enhancing the MPDR program, a valuable resource for patients, health care providers and law enforcement in Montana.

*[Insert additional action request]*

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Exhibit 44